

INFORMATION FROM ISO TO GRRF

At its 63rd session GRRF was informed about a new subject which was discussed in the ISO/TC22/SC15 (Sub committee in charge of the interchangeability of components of the trucks and buses) "Full automatic coupling systems".

The work was developed in its working group composed of experts from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

As it was presented to GRRF the aim of this work is to fit on the tractor/ semi-trailers combination a coupling system based on the fifth wheel and the king pin offering the coupling and uncoupling actions to the driver without leaving its driving seat.

These systems will provide an important improvement of safety during the coupling and uncoupling operations as well as a reduction of the duration of them.

In order to make this functionality acceptable, the system shall fulfil the following conditions:

- a vehicle (tractor/semi trailer) equipped with such a new system shall be compatible with a current vehicle (semi trailer/tractor);
- all systems must be compatible whatever the manufacturer;
- each vehicle of the combination shall comply with the requirements of the braking regulation;
- all safety issues shall at least be maintained.

Since the 63rd GRRF session some meetings of the working group were held during which 2 coupling device manufacturers presented a combination fitted with automatic devices.

Then the new work item was proposed to the ISO/TC22 committee members. The proposal was accepted in July 2008 and a first draft standard is being prepared.

It is possible that these new systems need some adaptation of ECE Regulation No. 13. ISO is ready to provide any information needed by GRRF.

The standard could be published within the next 3 years.

- - - - -